The decline in basmait exports in 1994-95 is not entirely attributable to international competition.

(c) Government proposes to encourage the exports of basmati rice. Some measures taken in this respect include the removal of price and quantity restrictions in addition to assistance in organising overseas campaigns and participation in trade fairs/exhibitions.

Exim policy as business challenge for BHEL

6781. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Export-Import Policy has become a business challenge for BHEL;

(b) if so the details thereof:

(c) whether Government propose to take measures to avert this situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The current Export and Import Policy, generally speaking, does not make any distinction between the Public Sector and the Private Sector. Therefore, by providing similar opportunities, the Export Import Policy operate* in the best interest of both the sectors.

पूर्ति विभाग द्वारा फर्जी संगठन के नाम पर कम्बलों की आपूर्ति किया जाना

6782. श्री आस मोहम्मद :
श्री ईश दत्त यादव :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पूर्ति विभाग ने एक फर्जी महिला संगठन के नाम पर कम्बलों की आपूर्ति की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई जांच की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला और इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) से (घ) उपर्युक्त (क) को मद्देनजर रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

EOU Entering Areas marked for small scale sector

6783. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA ^ Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow large export oriented unit* to enter areas earlier marked for Small Scale Sectors and for allocation of fund* to States for building infrastructure for Export Oriented Units;

(b) if so, what are the details trere-for; and

(c) what are the details of precautions taken for the protection of Small Scale Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Export-Oriented units (EOUs) under take to export their-antire production and may be set up for all permissible items including those reserved for Small Scale Industries (SSI). EOUs are provided with a limited access to the domestic market as a safety net against international market fluctuations but this is not expected to significantly affect the domestic industry.

Besides, non-SSI units in the Domestis Tariff Area are also permitted to manufacture items reserved for the small Scale sector on their undertaking to export 75 per cent of their production.

A oentrally sponsored Export Promotion industrial Parks (EP1P) Scheme has been formulated to assist State Governments in establishing infrastructural facilities for export oriented production. So far such Parks have been approved to be set-up in Dhandari Kalan (Punjab), Ambarnath (Maharashtra) Baddi (H.P.), Sitapura (Rajasthan), Hoodi (Karnataka) Kakkanad (Kerala), Kundli (Haryana), Surajpur (U.P.) Goramidipoondi (Tamil Nadu), Pashamylaram (AP), Savlif (Gujarat), Hajipur (Bihar), Durgapur (West Bengal) and Byrnihat (Meghalaya).

US Report on High Indian Tariffs

6784. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent US Government raport has expressed concern over high indian tariffs;

(b) if' so. the facts thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose: to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The 1995 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers released by the Office of United States Trade Represen tative on 31-3-95 states trat notwithstan ding India's reduction of its tariff rates from some as high as 300 per cant in 1991 to a csiliflg of *65* per cent in the 1994-95 budget, India's tariffs continues to be, awong the highest in the world, especia-ally for goods that can be produced . domestically. The Report adds that the maintenance of a Variety of additional duties of countervailing duties by India raises the offective tariff rates well above the tariff ceiling for some[1] products.

(c) Broadly speaking, in the Uruguay Round, India Khas bound its tariff on cepital goods, intermediates and raw materials at 40 per/25%. In the agricultural sector our tariff bindings range from 100 per cent to 300 per cent.

India,s agricultural as well as industrial schedules on tariffs have been multilate-rally verified and accepted by all the COH-tracting parties of GATT|WTO including USA.

Review of Licensing Policy to Sugar Mills

6785. SHRI SANATAN BISI; Will the-Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) which are the areas in the licensing policy for sugar industry that are being reviewed by Government:

(b) whether Government are considering regarding fixing of any target for issue of license to the sugar mills; and

(c) it so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The entire policy of licensing of sugar mills, including the option of delicensing is under examination.

Sugar procured for distribution through PPDS

6786. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state ;

(a) the quantity of sugar procured dur-ing the current season under levy system for distributing the commodity through the Public Distribution System; and

(b) what steps have been taken to ensure the availability of sugar for the PDS from indigenous production and imports contracted by the STC and MMTC despite optimistic domestic production estimates?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) At present, 40 per cent of the production of each sugar factory (effective all India average about 33 per cent on account of additional freesale allowed under Various incentive schemes) is procured as levy sugar. The monthly allocation of levy sugar for the Public Distribution System at the existing level of allocation is 3.35 lakh tonnes